

To whom it concerns (ALL Americans, including those who administrate and preside within the FCC):

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The FCC has embarrassed itself by allowing those who produce and deliver the news to become more closely affiliated in the past few years, and nowhere is this more evident than in the case of Sinclair Broadcasting.

Please let me tell you a story that pertains to this. A few years ago, I worked extensively with visiting Chinese graduate students in the United States. These were very bright students-- some of them had gotten Fulbright Awards for the research they generated, for their intellectual promise. I asked them about the news media in China, and they proceeded to check off every biased media source in their country, as if we were going down a grocery list. This is what America is fast becoming: a country where media organizations cannot be trusted, and the neutrality media channels once had, or at least attempted to have and that Americans had once trusted in. Our "news" organizations are sham. Rest in peace, FCC, for your value to the American public is fast withering in the face of monied interests and your inability to control what your organization was originally intended to do-- to regulate media and to restrict abuses such as the Sinclair Broadcasting group is guilty of.

You can stop the development of this sham by adjudicating fairly in this matter. Instead of allowing spin to dominate the airwaves, why don't you try and bring fairness and balance to what the American people are seeing.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

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